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764 treatment of the little ones who "go home" too early Such a fatal flaw as this in the great system of philosophy associated with the name of China's greatest sage will always prevent it from becoming the base of a great world religion. What children have suffered through parents holding false ideas of philosophy is simply appalling. One scarcely dares to tell all the things one has found out about child life and its sufferings in China. One has such a profound respect and even liking for the Chinese, and a great belief in their future, that one does not like to dwell too much on this, one of the blots on the character of a great people.

Sometimes the hillmen cross the Yangtse to visit friends or relatives in Yunnan and are taken ill in Chinese territory. In such a case they are terribly afraid lest they should die and be buried like the Chinese. The idea of a cold burial, without the warm, comforting blaze of the cremation fire, strikes terror into these Nosu, and they long to die at home, where wood is plentiful and a great fire is readily kindled.

713 While we were staying at Ah-Pooh's a number of people
292 from the district around came to visit us. Among these
726 visitors was a regular dandy, dressed in huge parti-coloured trousers. The tops of these garments were blue and the bottoms red. The wearer was a striking feature in the crowd. We found out before long that he could do other things than merely strut about in his gay trousers. He and a friend gave me a display of spear-fighting. The spears the two men used were nine yards long. There are some twelve yards long and some even longer. The two men seized the spears and then ran up and down a field as if they

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were meeting an enemy. All the time they were shouting their war shouts. They attacked an imaginary enemy by thrusting their spears forward and then jumped sideways or into the air as if to avoid counter-thrusts. The best weapon to parry the long spear is the funny-looking trident, which always reminds one of Neptune and the sea. One is rather startled to see that Mars has stolen Neptune's weapon. If the man with the trident can beat down the spear and run past its point he has a great advantage over his opponent with the long, unwieldy weapon. Then the dandy and his companion attacked each other, and the man with the coloured trousers was decidedly the more agile and smart. The way he jumped about, avoiding each attack, was really clever. These young men always go barefoot, and get used to any kind of road. They can get across rough country barefoot as easily as the sandalled Chinese can go over well-trodden roads.

After the spear display they gave us an example of stone-throwing. Before firearms penetrated into these hills stone-throwing was a regular part of their warfare. The Chinese tell many stories of the way the Nosu, getting command of a higher position, have beaten off a band of attacking Chinese merely by throwing stones. The dandy's opponent went up hill and then began pelting him with clods of earth in the same manner as he would have done with stones if the fight had been a real one. All these missiles the dandy turned aside with his arm-protector or just dodged. All the young men wear over the left forearm a protector made of ox-hide covered with jet-black Chinese lacquer. The hide is so strong that with it they can easily parry the cut of a sword or beat off a stone thrown at them. As I watched the men knocking

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713 aside the missiles, it struck me that I could do that. I asked
726 them to try me. Being their guest, they were loath to do so, but at last were persuaded. As the clods came to me, instead of knocking them aside I treated them as if one were fielding a cricket ball, and returned them home as quickly as one could. I fancy one of our smart wicket-keepers with a good pair of gloves on would have given these people a surprise. As it was they thought the catching of the missiles was wonderful, and stories went about that nine men at once throwing at the foreigner were unable to hit him. I am glad they never put their belief to the test.

526 While we were watching the fighters several horses were
496 brought for sale. One of the friends of Mr Long wished to buy a few horses, and we had a good bit of excitement as these horses were being tried. Just below the farmhouse of See-tieh there was a kind of race-course, oval in shape, where the young men constantly gallop their horses. These men are the most expert riders I have ever seen in China. Often they ride bareback at a tremendous pace, and often on a very hard black hide saddle. I was very much interested in the stirrup, which was a heavy wooden kind of shoe polished black. It looked almost as big and clumsy as a cowboy's stirrup. Here again I noticed that the Nosu do not follow the Chinese ways, but have a way of their own. They always ride toes in the stirrup, like Westerners, and not heels in, as do most Chinese. There is something to be said in favour of the Chinese method. The roads in West China are so rough, and there is constant danger of the horse slipping, so that heels in has some advantage over toes in. If the horse falls the rider can jump clear, and so save an awkward accident. I always rode toes in until one day my mule went down